



## Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 3

**Meeting Date:** January 28, 2013  
**Meeting Location:** Joy Rose Center  
1000 West Hively  
Elkhart, IN

**Council Members Present:** Fay Russell, Regional Manager DCS; Teresa Zornig, Division Manager St. Joseph County DCS; William Horton, Elkhart County DCS; Amanda Herendeen, Kosciusko County DCS; Pam Whisman, Marshall County DCS; Michael Carroll, Director Marshall County DCS; Erin Shidler, Director Kosciusko DCS; Linda Cioch, Director St. Joseph County DCS; Tony Sommer, Director Elkhart County; Janet Bohner, Elkhart County Probation.

**Council Members Absent:** Judge Duane Huffer, Kosciusko County Superior Court; Judge Curtis Palmer; Joe Wine, Foster Parent; Judge Peter Nemeth, St. Joseph County Probate Court; Magistrate Deborah Domine; Don Phillips, Bashor; James Pheilbush; Scott Filley.

**Others In Attendance:** Rachel Tobin-Smith, SCAN; Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager; Emily Robinson-Johnson, Oaklawn; Joanne Murillo, IJTF; Barbara Vernon, CAPS; Debbie Branfield, Crossroad; Leah Plank, CAPS; Justin Allen, CAPS; Mike Marchi, Memorial Hospital; Jessica Cole, JJC; Bonita Schrock, Oaklawn; Jean Reed, Dockside; Christine Beckman-Johnson, DCS; Kristen Prock, DCS; Hanna Losee, Bowen Center; Hong-Phuc Nguyen, DCS; Adrienne Dickerson, Lifeline; Tai Crayton, White's RFS; Anna Carter, SAFY; Pat Hancock, Center for Positive Change; Jennifer Pickering, CASA.

### Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by Fay Russell.

1. Welcome/Introductions of Members and Guests.
2. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of 11-19-12 reviewed. Correction to include moving Joni Tusing's name to "Others in Attendance" instead of "Council Members Present". William Horton motioned approval of the minutes. Seconded by Erin Shidler. Motion carried, minutes approved with one correction.
3. Community Partners Update. Rachel Tobin-Smith brought the correct financial information for the current contract time. Reports reflect the new additional money that came in just before Thanksgiving of \$529,000. Keeping flex funds available for families, they must come in and agree to services to get the money. We have additional case workers, so please send referrals.

We are getting referrals from all the counties. We can take some of the children that you cannot take. We cannot take any child that is on probation, however, can take other kids in the family if they are not on probation. Discussion as to whether these families are eligible or not. We are doing a Pilot that will not go away.

We had a little difficulty meeting the 5 day response time over the holiday. They are renewing these contracts for 2 years. We will know what the new dollar amounts will be in March. There were no increases in the local prevention dollars. The state is choosing to put the money into the home-based case management. We are on target.

4. Service Update. Hong-Phuc Nguyen. Comprehensive Home-Based RFP will close this Thursday. We have a regional RFP open for Community-Based Services:

1. Domestic Violence for Victim/Child
2. Domestic Violence for Batterer
3. Substance Use--Out-patient Treatment
4. Father Engagement

--Closing date for the proposal is February 21<sup>st</sup>. Information for the RFP will be found on the DCS website.

--We are possibly opening up additional services in March. We are specifically looking for Play Therapists; Counseling and Home-Based Therapy; Interpretive Services; Deaf Services. We need local providers that can serve these groups.

5. Regional Budget Update. Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager, reported on the Expenditure report. Region 3 2013 Budget is \$38,670,326 to use for Total Family & Children's Fund. Child Welfare will have \$24,781,826 and Probation will have \$13,888,500.

There is a change in the way the Federal Government is assisting with IV-E payments. They now give an actual amount (like a grant—when it's gone, it's gone) to be used throughout the state rather than reimbursing a percentage of what was spent. Revenue will get tracked by Central Office instead of by each county. Information is available to FCM's through Kidstrak.

6. Counties Updates.

--Marshall—Have been fairly busy. They have their first Intern who has been helping.

--Kosciusko—Full staff. Case loads look good.

--St Joseph—Jean Willems is retiring after 33 years, so this is opening a Supervisor position. Trying to fill 4 FCM positions. Caseload sizes are dropping on Permanency side because getting new workers.

--Elkhart—Filled Bill's Supervisor position with Tammy Downs. Janie Gonzales is moving to Licensing, so will need to fill her Supervisor position. Have 2 new FCM's that will be in training.

7. Other Business.

--Director's Workshop is next week.

--Permanency Roundtables will be the first week of February. Other counties meet with us to determine alternative plans. Probation workers will also be sitting in.

--Magik reports are coming in—will be able to provide reports soon.

--Have hired Investigators to search for family members willing to take kids. Also have Educational Consultants to work with the schools, families, and DCS. We are also to hiring Nurse Consultants.

--Bonita Shrock talked to us about the Pilot Program for children with mental health needs—started last Tuesday. Got 3 calls that have been screened in for Assessment. These cases hit the Juvenile Justice System, but had not necessarily become a CHINS case (for kids formerly known as CHINS 6). Trying to find the appropriate family members to assist. They have also submitted a brochure to the state to pass out telling about our services.

--Question: Is there any way to get increases in rates for Community-Based Services? Will extensions be at current rate or will they be increased?

--Answer: Hong agreed to check

Please note, the February meeting will be held on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The JJC will be closed on the third Monday due to President's Day.

Michael Carroll motioned to adjourn 10:40 a.m.

*Next RSC Meeting - Monday, February 25, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., 1000 S. Michigan St, South Bend, IN*